

REMARKS

This Supplemental Amendment supplements the Amendment dated February 4, 2005, filed in response to the non-final Office action dated November 4, 2004. Accompanying this Supplemental Amendment is an English translation of Japanese application 2002-266873, filed September 12, 2002, as referred to in the paragraph bridging Pages 10 and 11 of the February 4, 2005 Amendment. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicant's comments regarding convention priority as set forth in the February 4, 2005 Amendment have been reiterated below with respect to the accompanied English translation.

A comparison of the instant application with the English translation of Japanese application 2002-266873, filed September 12, 2002, demonstrates that the features of the instant application are fully disclosed in the Japanese application on which convention priority has been claimed. As such, the instant application is entitled to an effective 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) filing date of September 12, 2002, which is prior to the March 21, 2003, effective filing date of the Watanabe patent. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn and the rejected claims allowed.

Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-17 are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required for filing this Amendment and Request for Reconsideration to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-5143.

Respectfully submitted,

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